



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Valerie Ervin June 22, 2012

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Montgomery County Continues Free Summer Food Program

*Councilmember Ervin, Board of Education Vice President
Barclay and MCPS Superintendent Starr to Celebrate
Program on Tues., June 26, at Rolling Terrace Elementary*

ROCKVILLE, Md., June 22, 2012—Montgomery County Councilmember Valerie Ervin, Board of Education Vice President Christopher Barclay and Montgomery County Superintendent of Schools Joshua P. Starr will join other community members at noon on Tuesday, June 26, at Rolling Terrace Elementary School in Takoma Park to discuss the importance of continuing the free MCPS Summer Food program.

The program has 12 free walk-in lunch sites this summer—an increase from six last year. The first walk-in center opened in 2007. The Summer Food Program is aimed at increasing the number of eligible children who have healthy food options during the summer.

Rolling Terrace Elementary School is located at 705 Bayfield St. in Takoma Park.

“In 2007, as chair of Council’s Education Committee, I requested that MCPS consider ways to expand and improve the Summer Food Program,” said Councilmember Ervin. “Since that time, I am happy to report that the number of children in the program has expanded by approximately 30 percent.”

Each summer, MCPS serves children free meals as part of a variety of summer programs. This summer, nearly 9,000 students will receive meals at 114 locations, including 12 walk-in locations, where children 18 and under can come in for a free meal. Last year, the Summer Food Service Program served more than 320,000 meals.

“Access to high-quality, nutritious food for children is one of my top priorities,” said Councilmember Ervin. “Low income children are at the greatest risk of food insecurity and often the meals that they do receive lack the vitamins and nutrients essential for their development, which can have a dramatic impact on student achievement.”

About 32 percent (44,000) of Montgomery County students qualify for Free and Reduced Meals (FARMs), a poverty indicator and a figure that may be higher due to underreporting.

“Many children depend on the meals they receive at school as their primary source of nutrition,” said Councilmember Ervin. “The Summer Food Program is a key link to providing nutrition to students—especially the one-third of students who qualify for free and reduced meals—when school is out.”

Montgomery County Public Schools has sponsored the Summer Food Program since 1976. The program is operated with federal funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The walk-in programs will operate through Aug. 17 at most sites. The programs are available at the following sites:

June 18 – Aug. 17: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

- Argyle Middle School, 2400 Bel Pre Road, Silver Spring
- Fox Chapel Elementary School, 19315 Archdale Road, Germantown
- Kennedy High School, 1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring
- Millian Memorial UMC, 13016 Parkland Drive, Rockville

June 18 – Aug. 17: 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

- Epiphany Lutheran Church, 14411 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville

June 25 – Aug. 17: 11 a.m.—1 p.m.

- Global Pediatrics, 7401 Flower Avenue, Takoma Park
- Rolling Terrace Elementary School, 705 Bayfield Street, Takoma Park
- Maryvale Elementary School, 1000 First Street, Rockville
- New Creation Church, 11005 Dayton Street, Wheaton

June 25 – Aug. 17: 12:30 p.m.—1:30 p.m.

- Gaithersburg Elementary School, 35 N. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg

July 5 – July 31: 10 a.m.—11 a.m.

- Harmony Hills Elementary School, 13407 Lydia Street, Silver Spring
- Glen Haven Elementary School, 10900 Inwood Avenue, Silver Spring

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